

## OBITUARY.

THOMAS BURGESS FRY, 1850-1931.

To a great majority of Members of the Bombay Natural History Society, Mr. Thomas Burgess Fry, who died on November 20th, 1931, aged 81, will only be known as the author, in conjunction with Mr. M. A. C. Hinton and the late Mr. R. C. Wroughton, his brother-in-law, of several reports, published in this Journal, on the collections made by the Mammal Survey of India, which was inaugurated and maintained by the Society.

He was the son of Robert Burgess Fry and Jemina *née* Baldock and was born at Crowborough, Sussex, on July 8th, 1850. He entered the Indian Forest Service (Bombay); and soon after his retirement in July 1905 he joined Mr. Wroughton, who was working at the Natural History Museum in London and helped him most efficiently in the sorting, cataloguing, identifying, and subsequent dispersal to various Museums of the vast collection of skins and skulls procured by the Survey-collectors and sent to England for those purposes.

Although to begin with he had only a general familiarity with the Indian fauna, such as most sportsmen possess, and was wholly without zoological training, he applied himself diligently to acquiring the technical knowledge necessary for the determination of the species, to the extent even of learning the structural details of the skulls and teeth of obscure groups, like the Bats, Shrews, and Mice, in which he had previously taken little interest.

After Mr. Wroughton's death, he carried on the task single-handed, regularly putting in some six hours work on five days of the week, the odd week-days being set aside for golf at which, considering his years, he was wonderfully adept. This routine was broken only by a summer holiday, usually in Scotland, and by such recreations as the University boat-race, cricket matches at Lords and the Oval, and billiard contests. Himself an athlete of considerable physical vigour in his young days, he kept up his interest in games and sports to the last, and died suddenly as he would probably himself have chosen to die in the middle of a round on the golf course. He was buried at Ealing Cemetery alongside his relative and life-long friend and colleague, R. C. Wroughton.

Only a few days before his death he handed to Mr. Hinton for revision the report upon the Mammals of the Eastern Ghats. Appropriately then might he have exclaimed '*Nunc dimittis*', for this collection was the last of the Survey work in the field, at all events for the time being. It will be impossible to replace him and he is grievously missed at the Museum, not only because his indispensable work there has come to an end, but because his placid, kindly, cheerful and courteous disposition endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

The photograph, showing Mr. Fry at his work in the Museum, was taken during the summer of 1926 by Mr. Hinton.

*R.I.P.*